

Speech by Mr. Bernt Carlsson, General Secretary of Socialist International, held on March 21, 1981.

Comrades,

May I first of all on behalf of the Socialist International express our sincere thanks for the invitation to be represented at this conference of the M.E.P.

As has been said yesterday by the Grenada Ambassador to the OAS Comrade Dessima Williams, the Conference adopted a Resolution of thanks to the M.E.P. and to the chairman of M.E.P., Betico Croes, for the excellent way in which this conference was organized.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister of Grenada, our comrade Maurice Bishop said that although this is a conference of one of the member parties of the Socialist International, it is also a form of a mini-conference of the Socialist International and indeed he is right in making this observation because as was mentioned yesterday, the Socialist International at the last Congress which was held in Madrid in November last year got eight new members and it is very interested to note that all those new members, which are operating in the Latin-America and the Caribbean, are represented at this Conference and that is the first time they have a chance to meet after having become full members of the Socialist International.

These parties are the member party in Ecuador, the Escuela Democratica and we have here the leader of the Escuela Democratica of Ecuador, comrade Rodrigo Borja. We have also here the New Jewel Movement of Grenada, represented by comrade Maurice Bishop and his delegation. We have the new member party from Guatemala, the Social Democratic Party of Guatemala represented by member of the National Executive, Carlos Gallardo. This is a party which due to the terrible situation in Guatemala has not officially designated one person as the chairman of the general sector, but has a collective leadership for security reasons. Comrade Carlos Gallardo is member of the National Executive of this collective executive and represents his party. And also here is the party M.A.N. of Curacao represented yesterday and the days before by Don Martina and his delegation. And finally we have of course the host party, the M.E.P. of Aruba.

The Socialist International is very convinced that these five new member parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean will play a very significant role in the work of the Socialist International at large and especially in the work of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will meet in May hopefully in Grenada, at its next meeting.

Also represented here has been a great number of parties with which the Socialist International has been in contact and is in contact and to mention a few, the Independence Party of Puerto Rico, represented by Ruben Berrios and his comrades and I would like again to remind of the words of support for Ruben Berrios and his party, which were expressed last year at the Socialist International Regional Conference for Latin America which met in Santo Domingo.

Also represented here were the representatives of the Democratic Front of Guatemala, Mario Solozano, and I could continue to mention many more delegates with which the Socialist International has been in contact for many years, for example comrade Aniceto Rodriguez of the Socialist Party of Chile and others.

We also have a chance to meet here at this meeting with the representatives of PRI of Mexico and with the representatives of COPPAL.

The Socialist International very much supports the work carried out by COPPAL. We think that the work of COPPAL and the Socialist International in Latin America is complementary.

The Socialist International is an ideological organization which organizes the forces of the democratic left or of the democratic socialists all over Latin America and the Caribbean. And our aim is to influence Latin America and the Caribbean politics in that direction.

COPPAL has a different structure and a different purpose. It is an organization of Democratic forces in Latin America and the Caribbean. It means it also includes people like Paz Estenzoro of Bolivia, who is a conservative but belongs to the type of conservatives who believe in the democratic process and who is committed to strengthen this process and he is doing this by joining the COPPAL.

The COPPAL as such is an organization, which has the full support of the Socialist International in its activities to promote the democratic forces and the democratic process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Socialist International also maintains very good contacts with the PRI, the Partido Revolucionario of Mexico and we especially greet the efforts of this party to promote the dialogue in the North-South conflict. As you know the Mexican capital will this year be the host for a large international gathering which will discuss possible ways out for the deadlock which now is prevailing in the North-South dialogue. The initiative to this conference has been taken by the President of the Socialist International who has promoted a program for survival launched by the independent commission on the North-South question on which he was the chairman. This program of the commission will be discussed by the leaders of a number of states from both the industrialized world and

from the developing world. And the hosting of this Conference will be made by the Mexican President.

The work done by the North-South Commission is not exactly identical with the position of Socialist International as it is in comparison a much larger or much broader ideological specter.

But the main impetus of this Commission will be taken up also by the Socialist International in our own work on the North-South problem and this is a question which will be one of the dominating ones throughout the 1980s. And this is a question which will be given very much space in the work which we now are carrying out to write a new Declaration of Principles of the Socialist International.

This new Declaration of Principles of the Socialist International will replace the existing declaration of principles which was adopted in Frankfurt in 1951 but is outdated for many reasons; it is too marked by the spirit of the cold war and it does not enough take into account the tremendous rise of the Third World. It is not taking up important problems which have arisen since then, for example, the discussion of quality growth versus quantity of growth and to mention a very important aspect it does not take into account the new aspect of equality between men and women. Because, comrades, in the future, it will not be possible to see a panel like this one, including myself, made up of only men, there will also be women leaders in politics.

Another very important aspect which will be discussed in the work on this new declaration of principles is arms control and disarmament. Because at present the world is spending an incredible amount of more than 400 billion dollars a year on arms and to make the figure more understandable, it can be interpreted as saying that at present the world is spending more than one million US dollars per minute for the arms race. This is an incredible waste of money which should be used for more constructive purposes, for example to improve the situation for the developing world. It is also an incredible waste of money in the sense that it is really contributing to the possible destruction of all of mankind.

In this work which Willy Brandt has characterized as one of our most fundamental issues for the coming decade, the Socialist International and all those who work for arms control and disarmament are being inspired by the policies of the Latin American countries and as was pointed out in one of the resolutions adopted by your conference today, the Latin American and the Caribbean region, have taken a very bold initiative in being the first region in the world which has adopted a treaty against nuclear weapons, a treaty of a nuclear free zone in the form of the Tlatelolco treaty. This treaty many of us within the Socialist International con-

sider as a model which will be followed by countries and states and regions in other parts of the world.

Finally comrades, in the work of the Socialist International the aspect of human rights is of fundamental importance. The way we define human rights differ from the way it is defined by the bourgeoisie, as for example by the former President Carter.

We adhere to the principle that political rights are fundamental human rights, but we also include in our discussion about human rights, the demands for social human rights and for economic human rights. We consider for example that full employment is also a fundamental human right.

But we again stress among the basic human rights are civil and political rights, and the comrades in Guatemala and El Salvador can witness to the importance of Socialist International and our member parties including the M.E.P. of Aruba, in supporting this policy.

Comrades, may I end this short address by again expressing thanks to M.E.P., to Betico Croes, to the National Executive of M.E.P. and also to the staff of M.E.P., both to the full time staff and the staff which has been contributing at this conference to the tremendous political and organizational success it has been.

Thank you comrades.